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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505



15 March 1977

National Intelligence Officers

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting of the National Intelligence Steering Group,
14 March 1977

1. Attending the meeting were Mr. Richard Lehman, Chairman; MGen. Lincoln Faurer, DIA; Mr. Martin Packman, INR; and Dr. Sayre Stevens, CIA.

2. Mr. Lehman briefed the Group on the organizational arrangements the NSC Staff has made to prepare the response to PRM/NSC-10, "Comprehensive Net Assessment and Military Force Posture Review." Mr. Lehman also briefed the Group on the arrangements the DCI has approved to facilitate Intelligence Community participation in the process (see attached chart). The role of the Steering Group will be to assign the work asked of the Intelligence Community, to make sure that the work undertaken stays on track, and to sort out any problems that arise. The Steering Group will not attempt to coordinate any of the work it assigns, but it will meet often to handle its other tasks.

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3. [redacted] the DCI's representative on the Policy Review Committee's Military Strategy and Force Posture Working Group, briefed the Steering Group on the NSC Staff's preliminary effort to organize that part of the response to PRM/NSC-10 managed by the PRC.

a. Mr. Victor Utgoff of the NSC Staff will convene a task group to attack the problem of defining the contingencies to be considered. [redacted] of CIA/OSR is working with Mr. Utgoff.

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b. Ms. Lynn Davis of the NSC Staff will convene a task group to attack the problem of developing the alternative military strategies to be considered.

c. An OMB representative will begin work on a paper that will consider the budgetary constraints that will apply to the options developed in this part of the response.

[redacted] noted that no assignments of work have been made, but that some groups and organizations are independently pursuing work programs relevant to the PRM/NSC-10 response.

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3. [redacted] DCI representative on the Special Coordination Committee's Net Assessment Working Group, informed the Steering Group that 11 task groups are being formed to do the preliminary work on that part of the response to the PRM managed by the SCC. The work of these task groups is not to be highly structured, but rather performed in reaction to questions supplied by the NSC Staff and in accord with the judgment of the task group chairman as to how their groups should function. The product of these task groups will be the basis for the final draft response that the NSC Staff, itself, will draft.

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4. The Steering Group accepted [redacted] recommendation that the following intelligence officers be assigned to the following task groups:

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a. Regional Net Assessment Task Groups

Europe - [redacted]
 Middle East - [redacted]
 Africa - [redacted]
 South Asia - [redacted]
 East Asia - James R. Lilley
 Western Hemisphere - [redacted]

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b. Topical Net Assessments

Strategic Nuclear Policy and Forces - Howard Stoertz
 Technology - [redacted]
 Economic Strategy and Capabilities - Maurice C. Ernst
 Intelligence Capabilities [redacted]
 [redacted]
 Political Institutions, Leaderships, and National
 Psychology - [redacted]

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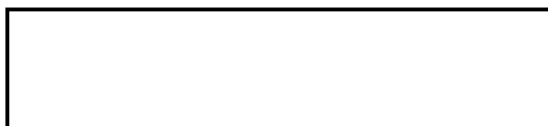
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5. The Steering Group's members discussed the desirability of each of the above-named DCI representatives forming his own interagency group to facilitate the exchange of information and the development of quick responses to requests for work. The Group decided it was premature to decide this organizational issue at this time, but wished the DCI task group representatives to be alert to the need to keep the Community thoroughly informed.

6. Mr. Lehman next raised the question of the timing and structure of the military National Intelligence Estimates. Noting dissatisfaction with the current structure, Mr. Lehman suggested that the Group must answer the questions of what is needed when and can the material in the estimates be rearranged without imposing more of a burden on the Community. A number of ideas emerged in the Group's discussion as to how the estimates might better be done. As a beginning to the Steering Group's investigation, DIA will supply the Group with a statement of desirable dates for the estimates that are now being produced; the National Intelligence staff will produce a statement of how the present structure might be changed. Both these statements will be considered at a meeting of the Steering Group next month.

7. Mr. Lehman also noted that the Steering Group may, in the near future, have to address the question of what role the Community should play in producing net assessments.



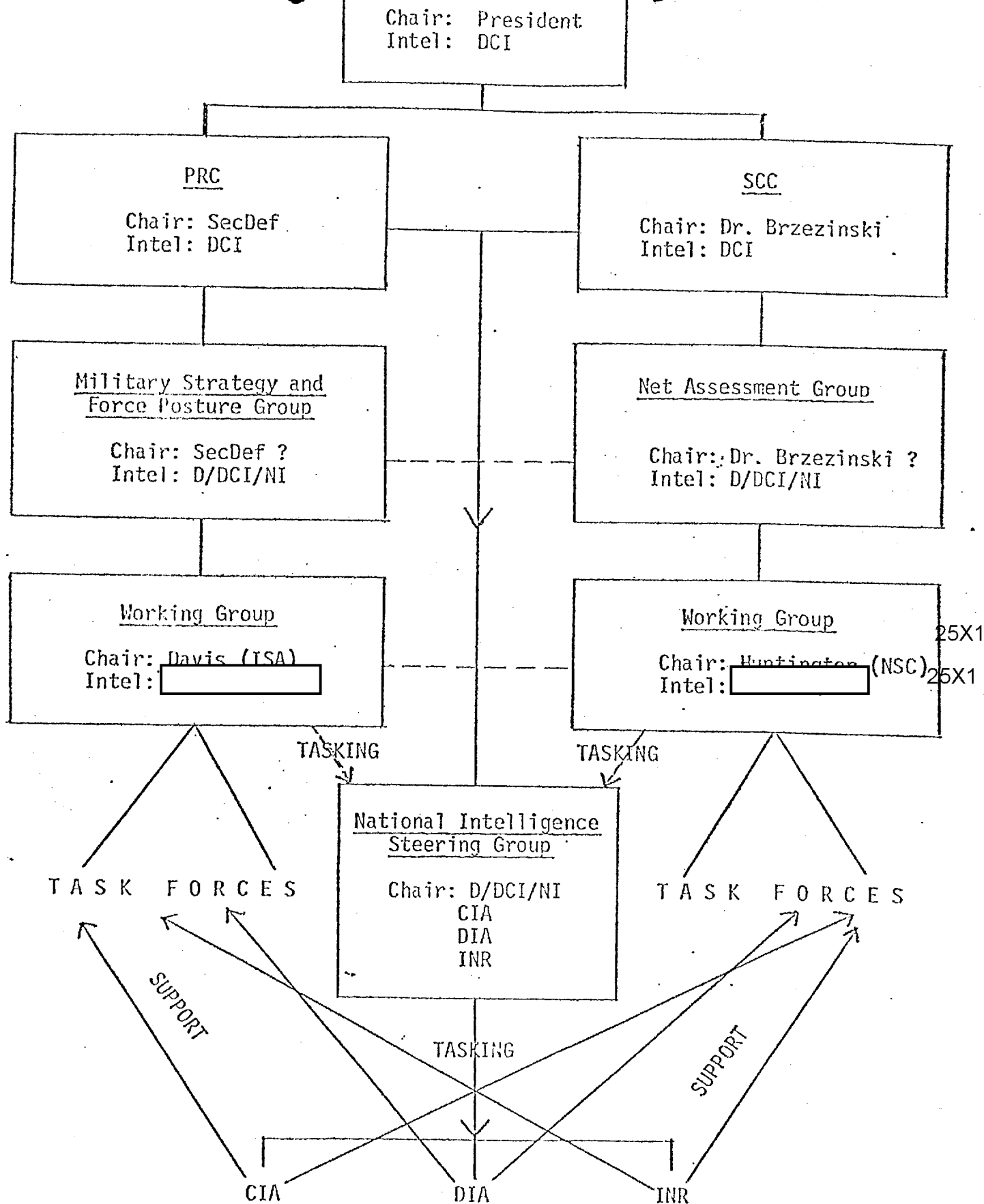
Executive Secretary
National Intelligence Steering Group

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Attachment
Chart

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